



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2005

**FORMER PHILADELPHIA STREETS COMMISSIONER AND TWO
OTHERS CHARGED WITH STEALING FROM
“KEEP PHILADELPHIA BEAUTIFUL” PROGRAM**

**Also Indicted Are Assistant Managing Director and Former
“Keep Philadelphia Beautiful” Executive Director**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan today announced the filing of an indictment¹ against former Philadelphia Streets Department Commissioner William M. Johnson, Assistant City Managing Director David B. Robinson, and former Executive Director of “Keep Philadelphia Beautiful” Mark N. Viggiano. The indictment charges all of the defendants with conspiracy to defraud the government and two counts of theft of program funds.

From February 2002 through August 23, 2002, the defendants conspired and agreed to use approximately \$13,000 of City of Philadelphia money from “Keep Philadelphia Beautiful” for a March 22, 2002 party and an August 23, 2002 farewell party for Johnson.

“Keep Philadelphia Beautiful” (KPB) was a non-profit organization formed in 1985 which was responsible for fostering and supporting recycling and other environmental stewardship activities for the City of Philadelphia. KPB had a \$197,750 contract with the City of Philadelphia Streets Department, which annually receives federal funds, to develop and implement multi-faceted public-education programs to improve cleanliness and enhance the quality of life and personal responsibility among Philadelphia residents and visitors.

“This was money that was supposed to help make Philadelphia a better place to live, not provide entertainment for a city official,” said Meehan. “The amount of money isn’t as significant as the abuse of trust by two public servants and the gatekeeper of federal funds given to the Streets Department.”

Johnson, Robinson, and Viggiano arranged for “Keep Philadelphia Beautiful” to pay for the parties and then received reimbursement for the costs from the City of Philadelphia.

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

| DEFENDANT | ADDRESS | DATE OF BIRTH |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| William R. Johnson | Philadelphia, PA | March 26, 1963 |
| David B. Robinson | Philadelphia, PA | October 21, 1961 |
| Mark N. Viggiano | Lafayette Hill, PA | March 9, 1955 |

If convicted **JOHNSON** faces a maximum 25 years imprisonment, three years of supervised release, a \$750,000 fine, and a \$300 special assessment.

If convicted **ROBINSON** faces a maximum 25 years imprisonment, three years of supervised release, a \$750,000 fine, and a \$300 special assessment.

If convicted **VIGGIANO** faces a maximum 25 years imprisonment, three years of supervised release, a \$750,000 fine, and a \$300 special assessment.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation with assistance from the Philadelphia Inspector General and has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Kenya S. Mann.

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